

another reason to stay

transforming a back yard into a secret garden oasis



by **Betty Hanselman**
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To move or not to move—that is often the question as family size changes and retirement approaches. For Heinz and Eva, moving and downsizing was the original plan. However, their comfortable Lancaster County home suited their needs for community and location near family. So when Heinz and Eva finally decided to retire in their current home, they chose to create a backyard oasis where daily relaxation and refreshment would be the hallmarks of their retirement years.

Seeking guidance, they again turned to the design team at Hanselman Landscape & Gardens. For over a decade, Heinz and Eva had been partnering with Hanselman to develop a three-dimensional plan which initially turned a steep bank behind their house into a hillside garden. Betty Hanselman remembers her first phone conversation with Eva in the early 2000s. Eva had explained, “We have a very steep bank behind our house bordered by an ugly wall. My husband and I want to make steps to the top and landscape it so that it is beautiful to look at from our windows. Every landscaper we have asked so far does not want to attempt this project. Can you help us?” Betty assured Eva that James Hanselman enjoyed challenges and would be happy to take a look. Apparently, the difficulties of the site did not deter the Hanselman brothers and their creative team; they designed and built a beautiful, terraced garden into the hillside no one else would touch.

“Just the other day we were in the hot tub with our grown children, and then we all sat and enjoyed drinks by the fire pit. Our friends say we don’t need to take vacations anymore, because we have it all in our own back yard!”

After commissioning Hanselman Landscape to tackle the steep slope behind their home, Heinz and Eva saw the importance of protecting their garden investment with regularly-scheduled maintenance visits. Because of their forward-thinking perspective and the value they place on their garden, Heinz and Eva began a maintenance agreement with Hanselman. Since the creation of the hillside garden, Pete Dymond and the Hanselman maintenance team have been there throughout the year to prune and mulch, while Sean Kramer has monitored and treated pest activity and



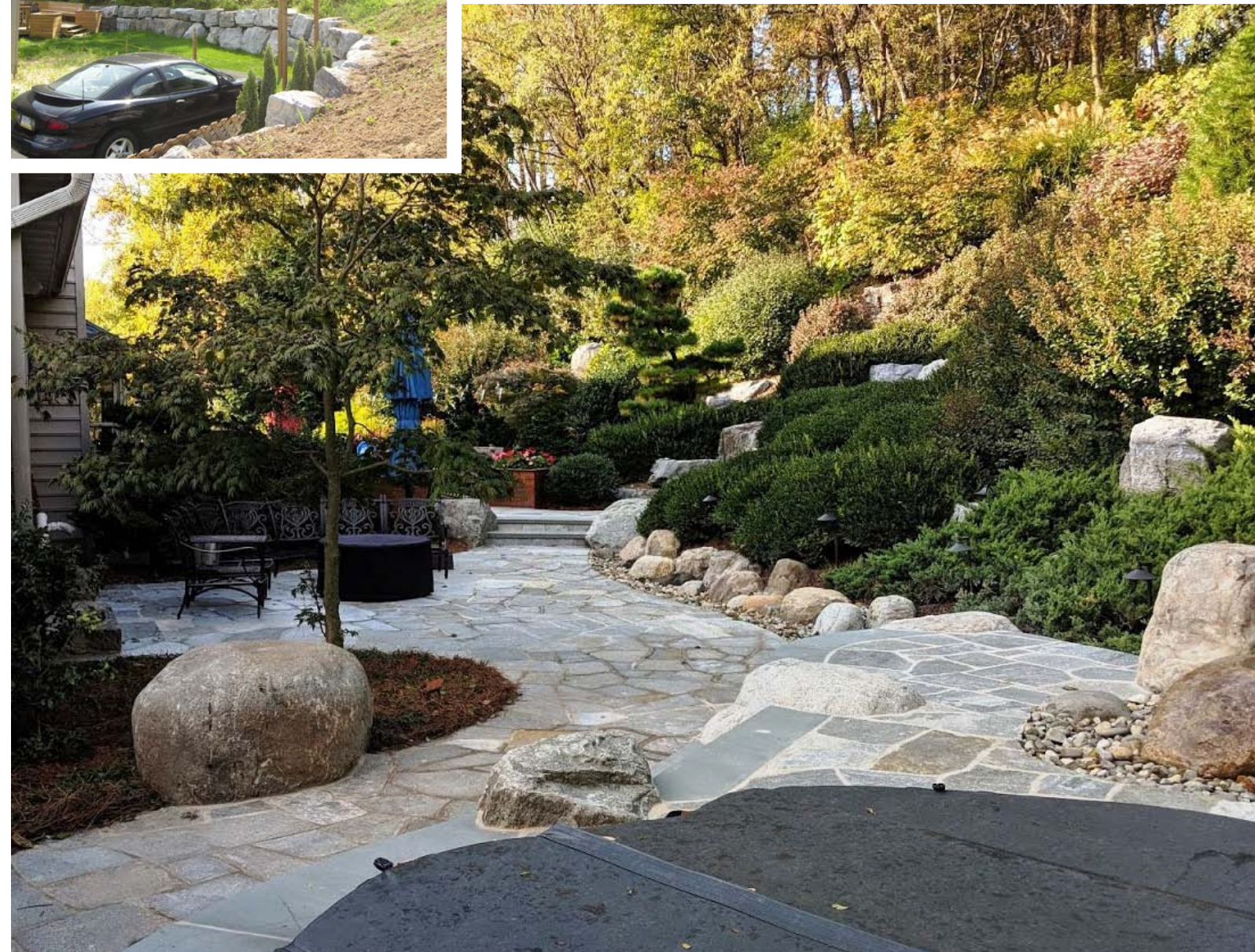
Long-term relationships and successful gardens fit naturally; everything we do is rooted in that awareness. Earning your lasting confidence is our first priority. You are cordially invited to explore how we might begin to cultivate such a relationship. At Hanselman Landscape & Gardens, we are dedicated to bringing the joy of natural beauty into our clients’ daily experience. Since 1985, it has been our privilege to design, build and nurture a wide variety of gardens in both private and corporate settings in central and southeastern Pennsylvania. Our staff includes craftsmen skilled in maintenance, installation, nursery care, design and management. Several of us have lived overseas, broadening our approaches to garden living. We all share a profound appreciation for the beauty of nature and are committed to crafting high-quality garden spaces. Our mission... to build value for clients, employees and company. Our vision... to improve our world through bringing natural beauty into the daily lives of our clients by devoting ourselves to excellence in garden stewardship.

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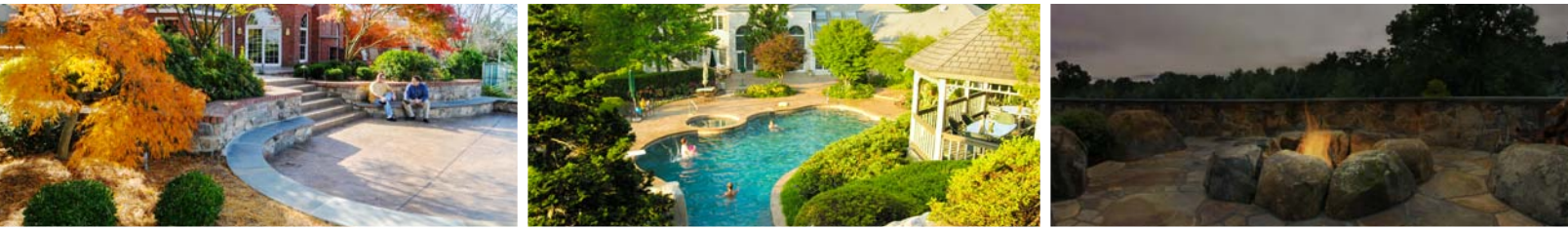


BEFORE

The before photo (left) and after photo (below) were taken from approximately the same angle (note the corner of the home on the left side of each). What was once an unappealing navigational challenge is now a beautiful, terraced hillside garden accessible by a natural stone staircase supported by re-purposing the very boulders which once barred the way. The remaining boulders from the old retaining wall were used as natural rock outcroppings that provide support to the tiered-levels of plantings.



A GARDEN DELIGHTS THE SENSES & Refreshes the Soul.



“The patio, hot tub and garden together has created new opportunities to use the same backyard. It’s absolutely what we dreamed, which confirms that the decision to stay here and remodel was our best choice.”

diseases—nurturing the beautiful space Heinz and Eva treasure.

Following the decision to retire in their treasured setting, Heinz and Eva asked the Hanselman team to tailor new ways for them to experience their beautiful outdoor space with a few retirement-appropriate modifications: no grass to mow, a hot tub to relax in, a tsukubai water feature, and a Hanselman-crafted fenced entry to provide privacy from the street.

“We are outdoor people,” Eva explains. “Now we have a kind of outdoor living room. Just the other day we were in the hot tub with our grown children, and then we all sat and enjoyed drinks by the fire pit. Our friends say we don’t need to take vacations anymore, because we have it all in our own back yard!”

Eva continues, “We spend more time out here than we ever did before. You can see why! I can’t wait for summer to enjoy the space more often. I



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imagine sitting in the shade of the beautiful new Japanese Maple while my grandson plays on the patio."

Heinz and Eva are both surprised at the difference the whole project has made. According to Eva, "The patio, hot tub and garden together has created new opportunities to use the same backyard. It's absolutely what we dreamed, which confirms that the decision to stay here and remodel was our best choice."

R&A